

History 195: Writing History

Sexual (R)evolution in the Twentieth Century United States

Sexual behaviors and attitudes in the United States have changed dramatically over time, and this course seeks to explore the roots of these modern trends and tensions, beginning in the 1920s and tracing them through to the present day. Examining representations of sex in popular culture as well as people's attitudes and behaviors concerning sex, this course will illuminate the origins, explosion, and aftermath of the so-called "sexual revolution" through the examination and discussion of historical sources as varied as essays, films, and poems. A central goal of this course is to familiarize students with the main themes, developments, and tensions of what is commonly referred to as the sexual revolution. We will explore them by looking at the concept of "sexual revolution" in relation to a variety of identities (gender, race, ethnicity), and other happenings of each period, including the larger student movement, women's liberation, gay liberation, and the growth of the religious Right. This course is designed to fulfill students' First-Year Writing Requirement and is meant to introduce students to the craft of writing in history. Portions of most class sessions will be devoted to discussing the various components of good historical writing, and there will be several different writing assignments completed over the course of the term, including a major project that will allow us to work through the writing process together.

Summer 2009
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
12pm-2pm
Instructor: Diana Mankowski

